DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Monday, November 24, 2025

KARACHI

Sunset	05:43pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	06:54am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	14°C
Maximum	30°C
Humidity	57%
Outlook	Sunny

Pakistan crush Zimbabwe to make T20 tri-series final
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Residents of district Central stage protest against water shortage

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Residents of district Central on Sunday staged a protest at the Sakhi Hasan hydrant against a severe water crisis in their localities.

A number of people living in Nusrat Bhutto Colony and some other areas in North Nazimabad Town entered the hydrant and stopped the filling of tankers. They demanded that water be supplied to their areas before being given to tankers.

The protesters chanted slogans against the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) and the provincial government. Later, they dispersed peacefully.

KWSC officials said repeated shutdowns at the North-East Karachi Pumping Station had caused water shortages in district Central.

In a statement, the KWSC said that power outages at water pumping stations had been resolved and that city-wide water services were normal.

It said the city experienced a total shortfall of 884 million gallons of water due to electricity disruptions.

"The Dhabeji Pumping Station was hit hardest, with 132 hours and 20 minutes of power outages leading to a shortage of 424 million gallons, while the Dumlottee Wells recorded 146 hours of outages, resulting in 111 million gallons of lost water," the statement read.

It added that North East Karachi Pumping Station alone faced a deficit of 335 million gallons, while smaller stations saw comparatively lower shortages — six million gallons at Hub and Pipri stations and two million gallons at the Gharo station.

"All possible steps are being taken to further strengthen the water supply system in the future," the KWSC statement said.

RESIDENTS besiege the Sakhi Hasan hydrant to protest against the lack of water supply to their areas.—PPI

Fire breaks out in freight train at Cantt Station

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Fire broke out in a freight train and destroyed goods stored in its two bogies at the Cantonment Station on Sunday, officials said.

Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan Ul Haseeb Khan said that the train carrying imported goods was heading towards a dry port in Punjab. When it reached Cantt Station, a fire erupted in its two bogies which contained dried fruits, solar inverters and batteries.

Receiving the information, firemen rushed to the scene and managed to control the blaze.

However, both bogies suffered extensive damages and fire officials said that goods stored in one of them completely gutted.

The exact cause of the fire could not be ascertained till late at night.

Officials said that the train left the station for its onward journey.

Shop gutted in high-rise blaze

Meanwhile, two people became unconscious when a fire erupted in a shop situated on the ground floor of a high-rise building in the Soldier Bazaar area on Sunday evening.

The Rescue 1122 spokesperson said the smoke emanating from the shop engulfed the residential portion, where two people fell unconscious due to smoke inhalation. They were rescued and shifted to a hospital for treatment. The shop was destroyed in the blaze.

Chicken rates fall significantly amid border closure with Afghanistan

Live bird is selling at Rs350-Rs370 per kg; govt urged to take notice of high prices of chicken dishes at eateries

By Aamir Shafaat Khan

KARACHI: The poultry prices across the metropolis have witnessed a significant decline, thanks to the closure of borders with Afghanistan which has resulted in suspension of trade.

Consumers in local markets express surprise at the decline in rates and suspect it is due to the "spread of some kind of disease" among the birds.

However, Sindh Poultry Wholesalers Association (SPWA) general secretary Kamal Akhtar Siddiqui ruled out any disease in the poultry.

Speaking to *Dawn*, he said suspension of trade and export of poultry products — birds, feed, eggs, etc — to Afghanistan due to border closure had caused the prices to fall.

Currently, retailers are seen charging Rs350-Rs370 per kilogram for live poultry birds compared to Rs460-540 per kg in September.

Even in mid-October when the border closure began, the price of live birds crashed to Rs310-360 per kg, while boneless meat was available at Rs650-700 per kg.

Retailers offer poultry meat with giblets at Rs400-480 while others ask for Rs530-580 per kg for clean meat. Boneless rates now hover between Rs700-800 per kg versus Rs1,000-1,100 in September.

Stakeholders believe that price difference exists because of the quality of the birds and their meat which may differ in various retail outlets.

Contrary to market rates, the commissioner of Karachi on November 23 issued the rates of live bird and its meat (without giblets), which are Rs288 and Rs435 per kg, respectively, but these rates are not followed by retail shops due to absence of the official price list.

Some shops, although displaying the official price list, openly sell poultry products at their own rates.

'Cheaper than red meat'

The SPWA's general secretary said that besides border closure, farmers faced the issue of overproduction at their farms coupled with an overweight of birds.

"Chicken is still cheaper than red meat. It is a big relief for many low and middle income people, who can easily buy it as the rates of mutton and beef are still too high," Mr Siddiqui said.

He said people holding wedding parties prefer to put multiple chicken dishes rather than focusing on an expensive beef or a mutton dish.

Mutton is sold at Rs2,300-2,500 per kg while veal meat (Bachia) with bones and without bones are available at Rs1,400 and Rs1,600 per kg, respectively.

No relief in eatery prices

Despite the fall in rates, the prices of chicken tikka, broasted chicken, Seekh kebab and Boti, Chinese dishes, etc, have not yet recorded any decrease.

Surprisingly, one kilo chicken *karahi* still costs Rs2,000-Rs2,200 which is three times higher than live bird rate, he said.

Mr Siddiqui urged the commissioner of Karachi to take serious notice of the steep rise in chicken related dishes prices at hotels and restaurants.

"Consumers must get price relief after a drop in poultry rates," he added.

Woman 'dies by suicide' in Memon Goth flat

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A 22-year-old woman was found shot dead in her apartment within the jurisdiction of the Memon Goth police station, officials said on Sunday.

The area police said initial evidence suggested that she took her own life by shooting herself from her father's pistol.

Police Surgeon Summaiya Syed said the body of the victim, identified as Samreen, was brought to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre on Saturday night. She sustained a single bullet wound in the head.

She said that all samples had been collected for serology and DNA testing following a post-mortem examination.

The police were investigating the matter from all angles.

Meanwhile, a 23-year-old woman died in a gas explosion in her Korangi home.

The police surgeon identified the victim as Anila and said that she was brought to the Civil Hospital Karachi with 100pc burnt. She passed away in the early hours of Sunday.

Man gets life term for sexually assaulting teenage girl

Judge hopes conviction will provide rape survivor 'some measure of justice and closure'

By Sumair Abdullah

KARACHI: A sessions court has sentenced a man to life imprisonment in a case pertaining to the kidnapping and rape of a teenage girl.

Additional District and Sessions Judge (Malir) Syed Ghous Ali Shah Jillani found Muhammad Kaleem guilty and sentenced him on two counts: 10-year imprisonment under Section 364-A (kidnapping or abducting a person under 14 years) and life term under Section 376 (rape) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

"This case presents a tragic instance of abuse of trust and commission of heinous sexual violence against a young girl. The accused, Muhammad Kaleem, who had social and business interactions with the victim's family, exploited the trust placed in him to perpetrate acts of extreme violence and violation against the victim," the court observed.

It added: "The victim in this case has shown remarkable courage in coming forward, reporting the assault, undergoing medical examination, and testifying in court despite the social stigma and trauma associated with sexual violence."

"This court commends her bravery and hopes that the conviction in this case will provide her some measure of justice and closure. The sentence of life imprisonment reflects the gravity of the offence and serves the purposes of both punishment and deterrence," the judge observed.

The court imposed a fine of Rs500,000. It also directed the convict to pay Rs1 million as compensation to the survivor, and in the event of default, he would serve additional imprisonment.

According to state prosecutor Kashif Noor Khan, on March 29, 2021, the accused forcibly took the survivor from her home in Saadi Town, drove her to a desolate location and subjected her to sexual assault, including forcible rape.

He added that the survivor's testimony, corroborated by medical evidence of sexual trauma and the circumstances of her recovery from the accused's custody, fully supported the prosecution's case.

"The accused initially attempted to justify his custody of the victim by falsely claiming marriage, demonstrating consciousness of guilt. All of these circumstances, when viewed together, lead to the irresistible conclusion that the accused committed rape upon the victim," the court noted.

Highlighting lacunas in the probe, the court noted that the investigation in this case was marred by procedural irregularities and negligence, particularly in the preservation and timely forwarding of forensic evidence. These investigative failures do not benefit the accused when the substantive evidence of guilt is otherwise established, it added.

Romancing the books — Adab Festival ends

Discussions on AI, heritage, 'sinful' women, art and history provoke thought

By Shazia Hasan

KARACHI: The second and concluding day of the 10th Adab Festival, which was under way at Habitt City turned out to be yet another day of nurturing minds with intellect. There was artificial intelligence, heritage sites, power women, sinful women, poetry, setting right of historic facts, art, film, drama and so much more to delve into on Sunday.

The festival's founder Ameena Saiyid is also the publisher and managing director of Lightstone Publishers. It goes to her credit that she always give equal space to books published by other publishers. The love of books remains at the heart of the festival.

One such example was the discussion with the authors of *Designing Tomorrow with Artificial Intelligence* and Pakistan's first *AI Tools Dictionary,* Dr Salman Ahmed Khatani and Sadaf Bhatti, respectively, with moderator Ahsan Siddiqui. "Change is the only constant. Pretty soon we will not be teaching our children 'A for Apple' but 'A for Artificial Intelligence'," pointed out the moderator.

"We are all futurists as we anticipate the future," said Dr Khatani. "But now as we move towards transhumanism, we can also design our future," he added.

Meanwhile, Ms Bhatti, who is an educationist, has also compiled the first *AI Tools Dictionary* in Pakistan. "I was reading up on AI tools and thought that there was a need for a dictionary of such tools along with their links and QR codes. The book is rather thin now but with so many tools being introduced all the time, its thickness will grow," she said.

Another book, which is not a Lightstone publication, was Nadya Chishty-Mujahid's *Perennial College Tales*. Discussing the challenges of writing the book with author Taha Kehar, Nadya admitted that it was a challenge writing about the opposite gender as her focus in the book was on young college males. "I needed accurate knowledge of how they think," she said while revealing how boys approached her themselves hoping to be written in as one of her characters in the book.

Journalist, author and poet Peerzada Salman's recent independently published book *Fever Log and Other Stories* was also launched at the festival on Sunday. The session with the author was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience, who also loved listening to what Amber Romasa Nagori had to say about her new book *Tales of Agnimitra and Tamanna*, which is published by Lightstone as is *Where Cicadas Sing* by Athar Tahir where Christi Marie Lauder of Habib University and author and publisher Safinah Danish Elahi joined in the discussion with the author. A panel discussion 'Echoes of Mohenjodaro' with archaeologist Dr Asma Ibrahim, environmentalist Afia Salam, writer Nasreen Iqbal and Raheela Baqai, as the moderator, reached the conclusion that there is a need for spreading awareness about our heritage sites among our young as they are the custodians of the future.

A session about the 'Power Women of Pakistan' saw classical dancer and activist Sheema Kermani, President of TCS Group Saira Awan Malik and PPP MNA Sharmila Faruqui in conversation with journalist Zarrar Khuhro, who managed to get them to talk about the things they have faced in life that enraged them so much that they turned that anger into fuel for moving towards positive action.

The following session was called 'Hum Gunahgar Aurtein', where poets Kishwar Naheed and Zehra Nigah, writer Noorul Huda Shah and educationists Huma Baqai and Prof Uzma Farman Farooqui proudly related to the title of 'Gunahgar Aurtein' or sinful women as described in Kishwar Naheed's poem by the same title as all have dared to stand up and question the wrongs in society. But it was a little funny to see them joined on the stage by journalist Wusatullah Khan, who also admitted that he was just as sinful as them. Shayma Saiyid's beautiful singing of *Hum Gunahgar Aurtein* at the end of the session touched many hearts in the audience, who also wanted to join the rest on the stage and rebel.

The discussion about Senator Farhatullah Babar's book *The Zardari Presidency (2008-2013) Now It Must Be Told* was another interesting session where the author revealed that widowed President Zardari told him that he would never remarry as that would rob him of the honour of being Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's son-in-law.

The book talk about Shehzad Ghias' *Pakistan Lost* with the author, senior journalists Zahid Hussain and Nadeem F. Paracha, author Omar Shahid Hamid and moderator Amber Rahim Shamsi reached the conclusion that history should be taught truthfully to help the country progress.

Mian Raza Rabbani's book *The Smile Snatchers: A Timeless Tale of Children, Resistance and Hope in Gaza* found critique in DawnMedia CEO Hameed Haroon's comments. According to Haroon, the book is not to be taken at face value. He also said that the genocide and slaughter seen in Gaza is also relatable to Kashmir. And

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